

Chem-Bio News

1. NUCLEAR PANEL URGES INQUIRY OF SYRIAN SITE BOMBED BY ISRAEL: *"Freshly evaluated soil and air samples from a Syrian site bombed by Israel on suspicion it was a covert nuclear reactor provide enough evidence to push ahead with a UN investigation, diplomats said yesterday."*

2. APTAMER-BASED BIOSENSOR SCREENS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT: *"Air Force personnel will soon know within minutes if they or their equipment are contaminated with a biological agent, thanks to a new technology developed by the Air Force and a national laboratory."*

3. INSTITUTE LAUNCHES BIOSAFETY CONSULTING UNIT: *"Southern Research Institute, a not-for-profit organization, on Wednesday announced the creation of BioSafety Solutions LLC, a consulting company that will provide technical and operational support for existing biosafety and biosecurity programs and will develop and implement comprehensive programs for high-containment laboratories and organizations involved in life science R&D."*

4. INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON THE RISE: *"A new report from a non-profit health group in the US suggests that emerging infectious diseases are on the rise and the nation's defences are not ready for them."*

5. CARD-SWIPE FOR MEDICAL TESTS USES HARD-DISK TECHNOLOGY: *"University of Utah scientists successfully created a sensitive prototype device that could test for dozens or even hundreds of diseases simultaneously by acting like a credit card-swipe machine to scan a card loaded with microscopic blood, saliva or urine samples."*

Chem-Demil News

1. PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL ACTIVITY AND PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY - WHAT IS STOCKPILE/NON-STOCKPILE?: *"Stockpile items at Pine Bluff Arsenal are declared quantities of chemical weapons that were produced for a future need, such as use against opponents who might first use them against the United States."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

NUCLEAR PANEL URGES INQUIRY OF SYRIAN SITE BOMBED BY ISRAEL

By George Jahn

The Associated Press in The Boston Globe

October 29, 2008

"Freshly evaluated soil and air samples from a Syrian site bombed by Israel on suspicion it was a covert nuclear reactor provide enough evidence to push ahead with a UN investigation, diplomats said yesterday.

The findings are important after months of uncertainty about the status of the investigation by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Preliminary results regarding environmental samples collected from the site by an IAEA team and made public earlier this year were inconclusive, adding weight to Syrian assertions that no trips beyond the initial IAEA visit in June were necessary. But the diplomats told the Associated Press that the IAEA's final evaluation, completed a few days ago, has the agency convinced it needs to press on with its investigation."

The full article can be found at: http://www.boston.com/news/world/europe/articles/2008/10/29/nuclear_panel_urges_inquiry_of_syrian_site_bombed_by_israel/

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APTAMER-BASED BIOSENSOR SCREENS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT

Bio-Medicine

October 28, 2008

"Air Force personnel will soon know within minutes if they or their equipment are contaminated with a biological agent, thanks to a new technology developed by the Air Force and a national laboratory.

Personnel will use the biosensor system to collect and isolate samples, detect and identify agents, and assess the seriousness of the threat.

"The system will provide an increased capability for Air Force Special Operations personnel to rapidly determine the presence of biological warfare agents in a combat environment," said Dr. Richard Stotts, counterproliferation branch chief within the Air Force Research Laboratory's Human Effectiveness Directorate. "The device is compact, quickly identifies agents, can be used repeatedly and requires very little maintenance to keep it running in the field."

The system consists of a spray, developed at the directorate's Brooks City-Base, Texas, facilities, and a hand-held "green box," which determines if agents are present. The green box, or DNA Capture Element instrument, was developed by researchers at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. The box uses an Air Force-developed biochemical assay based on aptamers, or single chain DNA fragments."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.bio-medicine.org/biology-news/Aptamer-based-Biosensor-screens-Air-Force-personnel-and-equipment-1089-1/>

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INSTITUTE LAUNCHES BIOSAFETY CONSULTING UNIT

Occupational Health & Safety

October 30, 2008

"Southern Research Institute, a not-for-profit organization, on Wednesday announced the creation of BioSafety Solutions LLC, a consulting company that will provide technical and operational support for existing biosafety and biosecurity programs and will develop and implement comprehensive programs for high-containment laboratories and organizations involved in life science R&D.

Debra Sharpe, manager of Environmental Health Safety and Security at the institute, was named president of BioSafety Solutions LLC."BioSafety Solutions was formed to help organizations put in place programs that improve safety, reduce costs, and increase efficiencies, further resulting in decreased risk for their employees, technologies, and bottom line."

The full article can be found at: <http://ohsonline.com/Articles/2008/10/30-Institute-Launches-Biosafety-Consulting-Unit.aspx>

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INFECTIOUS DISEASES ON THE RISE

Medical News Today

October 30, 2008

"A new report from a non-profit health group in the US suggests that emerging infectious diseases are on the rise and the nation's defences are not ready for them.

Trust for America's Health (TFAH) released their report titled "Germs Go Global: Why Emerging Infectious Diseases Are a Threat to America" on 29th October. The report states that at least 170,000 Americans die every year from newly emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and that this number could go up dramatically in a pandemic of flu or other unknown disease.

The non-profit, non-partisan group said that globalization, increasing drug resistance, and climate change are some of the reasons."

"In terms of fighting infectious diseases, the report found what it called many "major vulnerabilities" in US strategy, including:

- * New drugs and treatments to fight infections from bacteria that are developing greater resistance have received less attention than how to counter an intentional biological attack.

* Monitoring and reporting of diseases should be faster and seamless across state and local health departments and other jurisdiction boundaries.

* Information needs to be shared more within the country and with other international bodies and countries to help detect new microbial threats and support global efforts to counter them.

The full article can be found at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/127437.php>

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CARD-SWIPE FOR MEDICAL TESTS USES HARD-DISK TECHNOLOGY

Medical News Today

October 30, 2008

"University of Utah scientists successfully created a sensitive prototype device that could test for dozens or even hundreds of diseases simultaneously by acting like a credit card-swipe machine to scan a card loaded with microscopic blood, saliva or urine samples.

The prototype works on the same principle - giant magnetoresistance or GMR - that is used to read data on computer hard drives or listen to tunes on portable digital music players."

"The prototype card-swipe device consists of a GMR "read head" and sample stick. Right now, the device is about the size of a PC. But Granger says that when it is developed commercially, the GMR sensor device will look like a credit card reader."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/127478.php>

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Chem-Demil News

PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL ACTIVITY AND PINE BLUFF CHEMICAL AGENT DISPOSAL FACILITY - WHAT IS STOCKPILE/NON-STOCKPILE?

US Army Chemical Materials Agency Fact Sheet

October 2008

"Stockpile

Stockpile items at Pine Bluff Arsenal are declared quantities of chemical weapons that were produced for a future need, such as use against opponents who might first use them against the United States. Until eliminated, these obsolete weapons are safely stored in high-security structures and carefully monitored. The Pine Bluff stockpile consisted of rockets,

land mines and ton containers. Both the rocket and landmine stockpiles have been eliminated. The ton containers are expected to be eliminated by 2012. The Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's (PBCDF) highest priority is the safety of its workers, its workers, the community and the environment.

Non-Stockpile

Non-stockpile items include chemical warfare materiel that are not part of the U.S. chemical weapons stockpile, such as binary chemical weapons, former chemical warfare production facilities, miscellaneous chemical warfare materiel and recovered chemical warfare materiel. The Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP), which is part of the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency, leads the nation in assessing and treating recovered chemical warfare materiel. NSCMP completed destruction of all binary chemical materiel and former production facilities at Pine Bluff Arsenal in 2006, ahead of Chemical Weapons Convention deadlines. Additional NSCMP operations at Pine Bluff Arsenal continue to safely identify and dispose of chemical warfare materiel."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.cma.army.mil/fndocumentviewer.aspx?docid=003676548>

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